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purest country air than they now die in the most pestilential lanes of our towns; and when men died faster in the lanes of our towns than they now die on the coast of Guiana. We too shall, in our turn, be outstripped, and in our turn be envied. It may well be, in the twentieth century, that laboring men may be as little used to dine without meat as they now are to eat rye bread; that numerous comforts and luxuries which are now unknown, or confined to a few, may be within the reach of every diligent and industrious workingman. And yet it may then be the mode to assert that the increase of wealth and the progress of science have benefited the few at the expense of the many, and to talk of the reign of Queen Victoria as the time when England was truly merry England, when all classes were bound together by brotherly sympathy, when the rich did not grind the faces of the poor, and when the poor did not envy the splendor of the rich."

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2. — *Third Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts.* Boston: Wright and Potter, State Printers. 1872.

THERE are few indications of a sound modern progress more encouraging than the series of Reports of the Massachusetts State Board of Health. The two last of the series are, indeed, open to the criticism of being much too diffuse; and this criticism may be made upon the Reports of all the Massachusetts commissions. This year, apparently stimulated by the attacks of General B. F. Butler, they have even excelled themselves in respect to prolixity. The Commissioners of Internal Fisheries led off with 348 pages; the volume before us contains 326 pages; the Board of Railroad Commissioners found themselves unable to express themselves fully in less than 800 pages, the Bureau of Statistics of Labor required 598 pages; the Board of State Charities, 560 pages; the Board of Education, 300 pages; and so on through a mass of printed matter which simply defies examination through its mere inert resistance to labor. After all, is it absolutely necessary that everything should be printed by men the moment they become public officers? — Are our bureaus and commissions too lazy, or are they unable to discriminate, compress, and reject? The Report of the Board of Health for 1872 would be infinitely more valuable if it had been reduced one half, and in that one half could have been included all of general value which the present volume contains. Dr. White's paper on "Vegetable Parasites," for instance, carefully prepared as it is and to a certain class of readers doubtless very interesting, had been better left out altogether. It would have done very well

in a medical journal, or as a portion of a course of lectures ; it is wholly out of place in the Report of a State Board. As we understand the theory of these Reports, they are intended to give the Legislature of the State correct information as to the doings of the Board during the year, and to supply it with reliable dates upon which legislation may be based. Further than this the privilege has been assumed, and tacitly conceded, of treating all kindred subjects of a purely general nature in a simple, popular style, with a view to instructing the people of the State as regards the most important hygienic rules. Not more than half the papers in the present volume come within this limit. The remainder, though all of them are good and some of them are very good, should be relegated to their proper places in other publications, or in manuscripts.

Five of the several papers in the present volume come strictly within the correct rule ; three of these were prepared by the secretary of the board, one by its chairman, and the fifth by Dr. F. E. Oliver. Dr. Derby deserves the thanks of the community, no less than of all four-footed beasts with cloven hoofs, for the stout and at last victorious battle he has waged with the whole system of slaughter-houses, and all their vile and imbruting adjuncts, as they existed when the Board of Health was created. If the board had done nothing else, its course in regard to this matter alone would more than have justified its existence. Not that its work is yet at an end. The shocking manner in which civilization now systematically tortures before death the poor beasts which it proposes to devour after death, is something fearful to contemplate. The inside of a cattle-car and the surroundings of a modern slaughter-house are places well calculated to cause one to doubt whether the teachings of Christianity have yet obtained more than a theoretical lodgment in the human breast. So far as they have yet gone in this matter, it is pleasant to know that "no one could fail to see that the State Board of Health was thoroughly in earnest, and would carry out to the letter the duty with which they had been charged." Its members need not, we fear, anticipate much active support or useful co-operation in their future efforts from the public at large, but doubtless they will be accompanied by a sort of general good-will, which will evince itself in a feeble and sporadic way as long as they are subjected to no formidable attack.

The other papers contributed by Dr. Derby relate to the important subjects of small-pox and to the disorders consequent upon the construction of mill-dams and other water obstructions. The real interest of the Report, however, centres round Dr. Bowditch's elaborate paper upon the Use and Abuse of Intoxicating Drinks, and Dr. Oliver's paper, which

is practically supplementary to Dr. Bowditch's, on the Use and Abuse of Opium. From the correspondence which the board has carried on upon the subject of intemperance in other countries, Dr. Bowditch attempts to deduce a certain "cosmic law" upon the subject, and even goes so far as to print a map of the earth, duly marked with isothermal lines supposed to control the use of intoxicating beverages. As Dr. Bowditch has but fifty-three returns, entitled to varying degrees of weight as authority, from all parts of the inhabited globe, and as he leaves out of consideration the use of opium and the various other means of arriving at the same result, so far as intoxication is concerned, in use in the East, we cannot say that we have been very deeply impressed either with his cosmic law or his isothermal map. As a beginning it may be useful, but the data are not as yet either sufficiently numerous or sufficiently authentic to warrant the deducing from them of anything which can properly be called a law. Most of Dr. Bowditch's conclusions seem to be correct, but they seem to us least correct where they come in contact with his "climatic law." For instance, we are told that "intemperance is very rare near the equator": this may be true of intemperance caused by the use of fiery alcoholic stimulants, but can the same be said of similar effects produced by the use of that which is more in accordance with the climatic surroundings? How as regards hasheesh and opium in Turkey, Egypt, India, and China? Even as regards alcoholic stimulants, however, the case is not yet perfectly clear. Certainly one of the leading staples in the African trade is rum; and, moreover, the sophisticated negro is stated to be singularly expert in his judgment as to its quality.

Throwing all this attempt at broad generalization aside, as at least premature, the common-sense essence of Dr. Bowditch's analysis is concentrated by him into the following interrogatory: "By classifying all liquors as equally injurious, and by endeavoring to further that idea in the community, are we not doing a real injury to the country by preventing a freer use of a mild lager-beer, or of native grape wine instead of the ardent spirits to which our people are now so addicted?"

It certainly seems strange, after forty years of discussion, to come back to this simple elementary question. A shrewd, hard-headed old Scotchman in one of Charles Kingsley's earlier books, Alton Locke perhaps, is made to utter the pithy apothegm that "Temperance is best, but abstinence is better than nothing." The audience that Dr. Bowditch is addressing long since came to a different conclusion, and made up its mind that abstinence was not only best in itself for themselves, but best also for every one else, and that temperance was merely another name for vice, in moderation. It is perfectly useless to

argue with men in this frame of mind until they have tried their experiment; when for a sufficient length of time they have treated humanity as if it was clay in the hands of the potter, they finally become convinced, or at least a majority of their fellow-men do, either that the clay is of a very refractory nature, or that the potter is a very bungling workman. When this time comes, as sooner or later it always does, the voice of reason and of science begins to make itself heard, and the real work of reform and human advancement is about to commence. There are some signs that the temperance question in Massachusetts is now approaching this hopeful phase. For over twenty years compulsory abstinence, enforced by the penalties of rigorous legislation, has been the order of the day. That it has thus far been a complete failure, in some aspects melancholy and in others ludicrous, but in all a failure, no one now pretends to deny. Its friends say that this is due to the fact that it has never been thoroughly, systematically, and impartially enforced. This may or may not be true, but the fact of failure is not denied.

In some respects we have said that this failure was ludicrous. It has been so especially in Boston and the larger cities of the State. The nice distinctions which have there been drawn as regards the sale of intoxicating beverages must excite the envy of every professional casuist. At one time, for instance, the agents of the law triumphantly announced that every bar-room in the city was closed, and that nothing whatever in the way of intoxicating beverages was bought or sold "over the counter." This was true to the letter; and the friends of total abstinence rejoiced and were exceeding glad. Meanwhile every bar-room in the city carried on its business as usual, the simple difference being that their customers, instead of having what they called for handed them over a counter, took a seat in front of it and had it brought to them upon a tray. In other cases the counter was simply turned round and set against the wall, and thus, seller and customer being on the same side of it, nothing was sold "over the counter," and reform was thus far triumphant. In this way the battle came to be waged, not as between drinking and not drinking, but as between perpendicular and sedentary tipping.

Outside of the larger cities, where public opinion sustained a more rigid enforcement of the law, small rooms were provided, in close proximity to a rigidly temperance bar, where any person wishing to "stimulate" was supplied with hardly a pretence of concealment. Whether, however, the forbidden beverages were prepared for sedentary consumption in public, or for perpendicular consumption in private, the risk attending the business most apparently affected the quality of

the merchandise supplied. Dealers engaged in what, in reform parlance, was known as "the liquor traffic," openly confessed that to enable them to pursue their business they had to secure themselves inordinate profits. Blackmail alternating with seizures necessitated the sale of the most deleterious of possible compounds, the only two qualities absolutely expected being cheapness and intoxicating effect. The original cost of an amount of raw material retailed at fifteen cents would not exceed three cents, and it consequently became literally true that the race of tipplers did imbibe liquid poison. Nor did the evil stop here. The law was systematically converted into an engine of cruel oppression towards the poorer classes. A class of informers and country justices of the peace gradually developed itself, who made a regular living out of the prosecutions arising under the law. They did not break up the business; that would have deprived them of their own means of subsistence. They nursed it along. Now and again they gathered a harvest; they pounced upon the poor and the defenceless; they picked up the occasional sellers, and they blackmailed the regular ones, cultivating to the utmost while so doing all of the most repulsive characteristics of the pettifogger and the informer. This condition of affairs has naturally and inevitably reacted upon proceedings in the courts. While the law, to which in a republic such instinctive respect should be felt, has fallen into hatred or contempt, perjury, in the eyes of a large and not depraved class, has ceased to be a crime, and has become even an evidence of good faith. As between being an unwilling informer and a reluctant liar, the average man hesitates long in choosing. Unfortunately the average public opinion looks upon the former in the more condoning spirit; he is the less frequently of the two sent to Coventry.

If, however, the warmest advocates of stringent prohibitory legislation are to be credited, its worst results have been produced in those localities where it has been most rigidly enforced. Every reader of history, however superficial, can easily call to mind repeated illustrations of the certainty with which any violent action in human affairs is followed by an almost equally violent reaction. The pendulum passes from one extreme to the other, and only gradually reaches an equilibrium. The organs of the total-abstinence party have declared that a long enforcement of the prohibitory law in any locality reduces its inhabitants almost to the condition of imbeciles so far as the ability to resist the desire for ardent spirits is concerned. When in such places the prohibition is for any cause removed, excesses from intemperance take place which are elsewhere unknown. New Bedford, for instance, has long been pointed out as the one city in Massachusetts

in which the prohibitory law had been thoroughly enforced, and as proving by its example the feasibility of enforcing it everywhere. At the election held in May of the present year, it was voted to license the sale of ale and beer in that city. A shocking state of affairs at once ensued, indicating that the long-enforced abstinence and removal of all temptation has dangerously weakened, if not indeed destroyed, among its people the power of resisting temptation when presented. The leading organ of the total-abstinence cause in Massachusetts gave the following startling description of the condition of affairs which at once ensued: "Since the passage of the beer vote at New Bedford, where a case of drunkenness has been rare for years, men who were sober, respected, and useful have become suddenly degraded, wretched, and loathsome, destroyers of their own peace and that of their families. Old men and young men, and women too, reel through the streets and find their way into the station-houses. In less than three days after the beer shops were thrown open, a young man who presided at a temperance meeting on a Sunday night three or four weeks ago was carried to the station-house beastly drunk." Certainly no such condition of affairs as this is seen in localities where the sale of liquors is wholly unrestricted; and that years of enforced abstinence should in New Bedford have resulted in such a reactionary excess is one of the most alarming results of this class of legislation which can possibly be suggested. That it is most natural, however, is undeniable. It is but another instance on a large scale of "the sailor on shore." With nations, as with individuals, it has been so from the beginning, and doubtless will continue to be so to the end; the man who is never subjected to temptation gradually but surely loses the power of resisting it.

How far the enforced disuse of all alcoholic stimulants in certain localities may have contributed to an increased consumption of opium, has long been an interesting question. That the consumption of opium in Massachusetts is now very considerable would seem to be established by the returns contained in Dr. Oliver's paper in the present Report (pp. 162 - 177). Nothing contained in this paper would, however, justify the conclusion that any clear connection exists between this evil and a legally enforced abstinence from the use of alcoholic stimulant. No chain of connection as between cause and effect is yet made apparent. Dr. Oliver's paper is none the less a very interesting and suggestive one, and, taken in connection with Dr. Bowditch's, should furnish to Massachusetts legislators a good deal of matter for serious reflection. It was Dr. O. W. Holmes who once startled the Medical College out of its propriety by a paradoxical assertion to the effect that,

if all the medicine in the world could be got together and thrown into the sea, it would be so much the better for the men and so much the worse for the fishes. The majority of the faculty notwithstanding, Dr. Holmes was probably right in his assertion. He included of course all quack medicines, patent medicines, soothing sirups, and other infallible panaceas, no less than all useful drugs taken ignorantly or unskilfully administered; he by no means meant that some drugs judiciously prescribed never did good, but simply that all drugs, taken as they were taken, did on the whole more harm than good. A similar judgment might be ventured as regards the liquor legislation of the last twenty-five years in Massachusetts. It is undoubtedly true that judicious legislation in the direction of temperance would be of inestimable service to any community; it is very possible that the prohibitory legislation may have been of some service in certain localities; it hardly admits of a possibility of doubt, however, that, taken as a whole, viewed in all its aspects, and its results in one locality set off against those in another, the great mass of statutory enactments on this subject of the last twenty-five years has had a far greater effect in retarding than in accelerating the temperance movement in Massachusetts. If Dr. Bowditch, as the result of his labors, can succeed in giving a new and more human turn to legislation on this subject, he will confer a thousand-fold greater benefit on the community to which he belongs than he would by discovering a cure for consumption.

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3. — *Instinct: its Office in the Animal Kingdom, and its Relation to the higher Powers in Man.* By P. A. CHADBOURNE, LL. D., Author of "Relation of Natural History," "Natural Theology," etc. New York: George P. Putnam and Sons. 1872.

It is some praise to say of a book that it is in the channel of a great current of human thought, adding something to its stream, even if it be only froth and dead wood. This commendation we may give at the very outset of our study of Mr. Chadbourne's book. Now that all earnest students of nature have learned to look to the earth and the lower animals, rather than to the heavens and the gods, for the origin and history of man, all these questions called up by the title our author has chosen have come to be of the utmost value. That we have not a whole literature on animal psychology, as a consequence of Mr. Darwin's work, is due, not to the fact that students of that great question have failed to see the transcendent importance of its problems, but rather to the sense of the great difficulty in approaching the matter